

Title: Need to safeguard the interests of cotton growers in the country particularly in Punjab - Laid.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (FARIDKOT) : As the whole nation is aware that the cotton growers have had a very bad time this season especially in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Their distress and miseries, coupled with heavy losses of production, are pushing them to starvation. American ball worm and other insects have totally damaged the crop for which farmers invested their entire money by taking loans from various banks and commission agents. I request that government that the losses suffered by the cotton growers be compensated by bringing it under the Natural Calamity Fund and at least Rs.10,000/- per acre be paid to cotton growing farmers for the loss accrued to them. The farmers have already protested and demonstrated in the respective States that authorities misguided them and did not supply good quality and variety of seeds. I request Minister of Agriculture to rescue the cotton growers from their distress and their miseries.